

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. - 20. (cancelled)

21. (currently amended) A method for the treatment, ~~curing or prevention of~~ anemia in a patient, which comprises administering to said patient a combination of a Gas6 compound ~~or a DNA sequence encoding a Gas6 compound and~~ erythropoietin, ~~or an analogue, mutant, variant or derivative of said erythropoietin, or~~ a physiologically tolerated salt of said EPO derivative, either simultaneously or sequentially, thereby ensuring a synergistic rescue effect on erythropoiesis in said patient,

wherein said erythropoietin is selected from the group consisting of:

-a naturally occurring erythropoietin,

-a glycosylation variant of erythropoietin,

-a point mutant or deletion mutant of erythropoietin which retains stimulation of the production of red blood cells, and,

-a physiologically tolerated salt of said naturally occurring erythropoietin, glycosylation variant, point mutant or deletion mutant;

and wherein said Gas6 compound is selected from the group consisting of:

-wild type Gas6,

-a fragment of Gas6 lacking the A domain or a fragment of Gas6 consisting essentially of the D domain,

-a Gas mutant having at least 95 % sequence identity at the amino acid level said Gas6 fragment and retaining the function of activating the Gas6 receptors Axl, Mer and Sky, and,

-a physiologically tolerated salt of said wild type Gas6, fragment or mutant.

22. (cancelled)

23. (cancelled)

- 24. (cancelled)
- 25. (cancelled)
- 26. (cancelled)
- 27. (cancelled)
- 28. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 21, wherein said DNA encoding a Gas6 compound is comprised in a vector.
- 29. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 21, wherein said DNA encoding a Gas6 compound is engineered into a cell.
- 30. (previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein said anemia is caused by or associated with a disorder selected from the group consisting of chronic renal failure, aplastic anemia, hemolytic anemia, malignancy, an endocrine deficiency or is the result of chemotherapy.
- 31. (new) The method according to claim 21 wherein said glycosylation variant of erythropoietin is epoetin or darbepoetin.
- 32. (new) The method according to claim 21, wherein said anemia is caused by chronic renal failure.